



*Affiliated with Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Michigan Land Use Institute, and the Michigan Environmental Council*

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

To: Chairman Joel Sheltroun and members of the House Committee on Tourism,  
Outdoor Recreation & Natural Resources

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Michigan Resource Stewards (MRS) is an alliance of over 100 senior resource professionals, many of which have an intimate knowledge of the historical recreational uses of the Pigeon River Country.

House Bill No. 4610 proposes a horse trail system consisting of trails historically used by horses and requires that the DNR keep them up forever, regardless of whether they have fallen into disuse or have been replaced by more attractive or less dangerous trailways.

Additionally, all areas of state land, once used by horses, are hereby designated open to that use forever. It effectively elevates this one recreational use above all. This legislation says that horses may continue forever to use those areas they have been using and lets other users and the preponderance of professional and public opinion take the hindmost. This is terrible public policy and bad government.

Trail riding is a delightful recreational pursuit that deserves to be fairly accommodated on state and federal lands. But this is not the way.

Michigan Resource Stewards opposes this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David P. Borgeson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David P. Borgeson, President  
Michigan Resource Stewards